

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /124 W

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R 201716Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7341

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L L O M E 0406D

ABIDJAN FOR DATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, TO, FR

SUBJ: FRACNO-TOGOLESE MILITARY MANEUVERS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. TOGO-PRESSE 20 FEBRUARY REPORTS JOINT FRANKO-TOGOLESE MILITARY MANEUVERS WILL BE HELD FROM 19 THROUGH 23 FEBRUARY IN BADOU-ATAKPAME-PALIME REGION. PURPOSE IS SAID TO BE COOPERATION IN TRAINING OF TOGOLESE ARMED FORCES AND ELEMENTS OF FRENCH LAND AND AIR FORCES.

2. TOGOLESE ELEMENTS PARTICIPATING ARE:

FIRST COMMANDO BATTALION

SECOND ARMORED BATTALION

THIRD COMMANDO BATTALION

TRANSPORT COMPANY

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COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDICAL SECTIONS OF REGIMENTAL COMMAND

BATTALION
MOBILE SQUADRON OF NATIONAL GENDARMERIE

3. FRENCH ELEMENTS ARE:

ONE COMPANY OF THIRD REGIMENT OF PARACHUTISTS OF MARINE INFANTRY
ONE PATROL OF THREE F-100 JET FIGHTER AIRCRAFT
ONE TRANSPORT ELEMENT OF 4 TRANSALL AIRCRAFT, WITH LOGISTIC
SUPPORT.

4. GENERAL EYADEMA AND LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROUTIER, INSPECTOR
OF FRENCH OVERSEAS FORCES, WILL JOINTLY COMMAND EXERCISE.
FEBRUARY 19 AND 20 WILL BE DEVOTED TO PUTTING FORCES IN PLACE
AND 21 AND 22 TO MANEUVERS. SHOW WILL END WITH PAJADE 23 FEB
IN PALIME. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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5. COMMENT: AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, EYADEMA APPARENTLY VIEWS
MANEUVERS AS PROOF THAT FRENCH-TOGOLESE RELATIONS ARE STILL
GOOD, EVEN AFTER HIS RECENT ACCUSATION OF HIS ATTEMPTED MURDER
ON PART OF CTMB, WHICH HAS GENERALLY BEEN CONSIDERED HERE A
PREDOMINANTLY FRENCH ENTERPRISE. MANEUVERS ARE VERY UNPOPULAR
WITH FRENCH COMMUNITY, WHICH THINKS GOT IS ALLOWING FRANCE TO
BE KICKED AROUND WITHOUT REACTING. WE ALSO HAVE RELIABLE
REPORT THAT SOME TBGOLESE OFFICERS WERE MUCH OPPOSED TO CARRYING
OUT MANEUVERS AFTER CRASH OF PRESIDENT'S PLANE, WITH SOME EVEN
FEARING FRENCH MILITARY PRESENCE COULD BE DANGEROUS. GHANAIAAN
MILITARY MAY BE EVEN MORE DUBIOUS OF FRENCH AND TOGOLESE
INTENTIONS IN MANEUVERING SO CLOSE TO FRONTIER. AS BADOU.
IF, HOWEVER, MANEUVERS GO WELL, THEY WILL APPEAR LOCALLY
AS ONE MORE TRIUMPH FOR EYADEMA, WHO FOR MOMENT SEEMS TO BE
HAVING EVERYTHING HIS OWN WAY.
DICKINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBINED MILITARY EXERCISES, MILITARY TRAINING, AMITY, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: rowelle0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LOME00406
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LOME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740222/aaaaaucf.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: rowelle0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <30-Sep-2002 by rowelle0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRACNO-TOGOLESE MILITARY MANEUVERS BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: MOPS, TO, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005